

**Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revision Public Information & Scoping Meeting**  
**August 10, 2011**  
**5:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Yakima, WA**

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**Meeting Purpose and Overview**

The USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) hosted a public information and scoping meeting for the Colville and Okanogan National Forest Plan in Yakima, Washington on August 10, 2011. The meeting provided a combination of formats, including open house, presentation, question and response, and group comments.

The meeting served two purposes: to provide the public an opportunity to learn about the Forest Service's proposals for long-term management of the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests, and to provide information on how the public can comment on the proposals, how their comments will be used, and to learn about future opportunities for their involvement.

**Meeting Agenda**

Deborah Kelly, Plan Revision Public Affairs Specialist, welcomed everyone and explained the meeting objectives, agenda, and meeting conduct. Irene Davidson, Naches District Ranger, talked briefly about the Forest Plan Revision process, the value of public participation in the process, and Forest Service expectations for the meeting. Irene introduced the rest of the Forest Service's Forest Plan Revision team (Team).

**Presentation**

Margaret Hartzell, Team leader, presented the key concepts of the Proposed Actions. She also explained that the comment period was extended an additional 30 days until September 28. Since this meeting was held in Yakima, Margaret focused on the specific proposals related to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. She provided a general overview; a process timeline; and *new* and *continued* goals of the Proposed Actions for the following categories:

- Aquatics and riparian systems
- Plants
- Vegetation
- Wildlife habitat
- Access
- Livestock grazing
- Recreation
- Renewable forest products

- Scenery
- Preliminary Wilderness recommendations

Margaret also explained the “tools” the plan uses, as well as how comments are being gathered and used in the process. Please see Attachment 2 for the presentation slides.

Margaret also explained the difference between the Plan Revision project and Travel Management.

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## Questions & Answers (Q&A)

The following is a synopsis of questions (Q) / comments (C) and corresponding responses (R) from the meeting. Note: similar questions / concerns were combined for summarization purposes.

**C: The proposal is unclear. What does it cost and what do we get?**

**C: There has been back and forth on climate change and some of the data was played with. Yet, you’re using it to make predictions. How dynamic is a Forest Plan if climate change doesn’t happen?**

*R: The Plan can be amended. It’s flexible.*

**Q: Is the public involved in amendments?**

*R: Yes, normal NEPA process.*

**Q: In the areas proposed for wilderness, are there motorized trails there now? (reference to page 5 of the backcountry FAQ document)**

*R: There is no summer, motorized use in the Naches RD areas proposed and no groomed snowmobile trails to our knowledge. Please tell us if you have further information. We didn’t address winter use in backcountry motorized (that will be addressed at the project level).*

**Q: Will there be an increase in the “heartbeat limitation?”**

*R: We did not change the group size limit (12 people and stock). Some would want it to be larger; others smaller.*

**Q: I find the multiple shades of green on the maps confusing. In the “active restoration” areas, why are there limits on roads?**

*R: This is transparency on our part. Looking toward the future, there will be fewer roads, both for resource and financial reasons. These designations will affect road amounts generally, not specifically.*

**Q: Do the miles per square mile guidelines for roads include motorized trails, as well?**

*R: No, these are just for roads. There can be additional motorized trails.*

**Q: Who approves the final plan?**

*R: Pacific Northwest Regional Forester- Kent Connaughton.*

**Q: Can we have clearer maps?**

*A: We have a few versions. Some have section lines, others have topographic relief. There is also GIS data for download and KML data files that can be used with your own Google Earth application that can be downloaded from the web. Ranger District offices can help with questions about specific areas.*

**Q: How can you meet the goal of reducing the trail maintenance backlog by 10-20% without bringing on more personnel?**

*R: We're assuming the same budget in the future. Some trails may no longer get maintenance in favor of better maintenance elsewhere. We will also rely on volunteers and clubs for support. Any trail closures would go through a NEPA process and get public input.*

**Q: What percentage of Washington State is already in wilderness and what will this proposal bring the total to?**

*R: Total wilderness acreage in the state is 4,423,000 acres, or about 10%.*

**Q: Do dogs count toward group size limitations?**

*R: No. Only stock/pack animals.*

**Q: Who can we ask about specific roads and trails?**

*R: Look at the maps, talk with the Ranger District personnel. However, specific decisions will be made later through Travel Management and subsequent NEPA.*

**Q: How are you coordinating this effort with Travel Management?**

*R: We are working closely together. The Forest Plan sets overarching goals and management areas, while Travel Management will give designations for specific roads and trails.*

**Q: Do you fight fire in wilderness?**

*R: Sometimes. A "go/no go" decision is made based on the circumstances (ongoing parameters, size, etc.).*

**Q: Which areas will have roads reduced?**

*R: The proposal is for active restoration 2 and 3 to have limited road densities.*

**Q: Is the number of board feet driven by sustainability or economics?**

*R: Ecosystem restoration and sustainability.*

## **Closing**

Irene noted that the formal presentation and question-answer session had ended, and that Forest Service staff would be available for further discussion and to answer any remaining questions.

Margaret and Irene thanked everyone for their participation in the process, noting that their input will be helpful in developing plans in the future. They also encouraged everyone to submit written comments.

The open house reconvened for another 30 minutes. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Attachement 1- includes a list of forest staff. Attachement 2 includes presentation notes.

## Attachment 1: List of Forest Service Staff

Forest Service Staff		
Name	Forest	City, State
Rod Clausnitzer	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Okanogan, WA
Barry Collins	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Naches, WA
Irene Davidson	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Naches, WA
Roland Giller	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Wenatchee, WA
Margaret Hartzell	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Okanogan, WA
Doug Jenkins	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Naches, WA
Debbie Kelly	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Okanogan, WA
Karen Lindhorst	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Naches, WA
Rachel Lipsky	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Wenatchee, WA
Mark Loewen	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Wenatchee, WA
Lisa Therrell	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Leavenworth, WA

## Attachment 2: Presentation Notes

# WELCOME!

## COLVILLE AND OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION

### PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

August 10, 2011

Yakima, Washington

## Agenda

- 5:00 p.m. Open House
- 5:30 p.m. Welcome and Meeting Overview
- 5:40 p.m. Informational Presentation  
Questions and Responses
- 6:20 p.m. Return to Open House
- 7:00 p.m. Adjourn

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## Meeting Principles

- Listen actively
- Participate actively
- Discuss concerns in a constructive and civil manner
- Share question and response time
- Please hold applause
- Turn off/mute electronic devices
- Let the facilitators or Forest Service Staff know if you need help finding something, or someone to talk with you.
- The FS will genuinely try to answer, as specifically as possible, any questions about the proposed actions and how they may affect your interest(s) on the Colville or Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests.

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## Informational Presentation

Margaret Hartzell,  
Forest Plan Revision Team Leader

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## Why you should be involved

- Forest Plan Revision – Proposed Action public involvement
- June 30 to September 28, 2011

*"Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the  
Nation's forest and grasslands to meet the needs of  
present and future generations."  
- Forest Service Mission*

NEWZ Plan Revision

## What Plans Do...

- Describes desired
  - Habitat for wildlife, aquatic species, and plants
  - Vegetation (trees, shrubs, range lands)
- Identifies areas suited for kinds of travel
  - on foot, motorized, or mechanized
- Recommend wilderness, determine eligibility of wild and scenic rivers
- Provide sideboards for projects
  - standards and guidelines

NEWZ Plan Revision

## Plan Revision – the basics

- Managing expectations
- Bring current plan up-to-date as required by NFMA
- Cannot make changes to laws, regulations, the directives, policy



Umbrella  
Operating framework for Forest

NEWZ Plan Revision

## Time Line

- This summer – Proposed Action
- Summer 2012 – DEIS
- Summer 2013 – FEIS
- Fall 2013 – revised forest plan



NEWZ Plan Revision

## Proposed Action

- Aquatics and Riparian Systems
  - New – Key watersheds
  - Continuing – good water quality, riparian buffers, healthy riparian ecosystems



NEWZ Plan Revision

## Proposed Action

- Plants
  - Continue – preventing introduction and spread of invasive plants
  - Using native plants
  - Protecting unique habitats, rare plants, ESA species
  - Have healthy ecosystems



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## Proposed Action

- Vegetation
  - New – role of disturbance in ecosystem; data on composition, structure, and spatial patterns
  - Continue – focus on ecosystem restoration and forest health, managing wildfire risks, contributing habitat



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## Proposed Action

- Wildlife Habitat
  - New – science to better describe habitat condition; ESA species
  - Continue – high quality habitat, connectivity, and contributing to recovery of ESA species



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## Attachment 2: Presentation Notes

### Proposed Action

- Access – roads and trails, docks and bridges
  - ▣ Continue – safe, affordable, environmentally sound system of roads and trails
  - ▣ Continue – range of recreational trails
  - NOTE on the Travel Management process



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### Proposed Action

- Livestock Grazing
  - ▣ Continue – range lands in good condition.



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### Proposed Action

- Recreation
  - ▣ New – additional data on recreation trends and use specific to Forest
  - ▣ Continue – offer quality, nature-based recreation in outdoor setting



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### Proposed Action

- Renewable Forest Products
  - ▣ Special forest products, merchantable wood products
  - ▣ Continue – provide firewood, saw timber, biomass, wood fiber
  - ▣ 25 to 35 mmbf and 10,000 acres per year on average



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### Proposed Action

- Scenery
  - ▣ New – system that emphasizes actively managing to enhance and maintain
  - ▣ Continue – provide beautiful scenery



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### Proposed Action

- Preliminary Wilderness Recommendation
  - ▣ Continue – Salmo-Priest Wilderness – 29,000 acres
  - ▣ New – preliminary recommendation of 101,000 acres.
    - About 9% of Forest
    - Not final decision, existing uses can continue until Congress acts
    - Did not recommend areas with motorized trails, mining operations, WUI with dry Forest, tools needed, not high quality

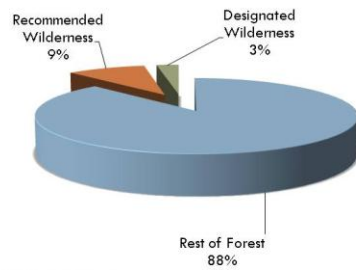


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## Attachment 2: Presentation Notes

### Proposed Action



Percent of total Forest acres

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### Proposed Action

- Tool the plan uses - Management Areas
  - Consistent with neighbors
  - Habitats move
  - New congressionally created trail – Pacific Northwest National Scenic



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### Commenting

- Today – gather information, ask questions
- Tomorrow - Send us comments specific to the proposed action, on-target, thoughtful
- Use comments to build options (alternatives) for plan



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### How to Comment

- **Send comments to:**  
Forest Plan Revision  
Okanogan Valley Office  
1240 Second Avenue South  
Okanogan, WA 98840
- Email: [r6\\_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:r6_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us)
- Website: [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision)

Comments are most helpful if received by September 28, 2011.

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